

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent comprising:

a substantially tubular shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a guidewire lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, and a stent bed proximate the distal end upon which a self-expanding stent is positioned; and

a substantially tubular sheath defining an interior volume, the sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and an enlarged section proximate the distal end, the sheath being coaxially positioned over the shaft such that the enlarged section is aligned with the stent bed, the sheath including an inner polymeric layer an outer polymeric layer, and a reinforcement layer, the reinforcement layer comprising a flat wire having a substantially rectangular cross section.

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

4. (Amended) The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to claim 4, wherein the wire comprises stainless steel

and has cross-sectional dimensions of 0.003 inches by 0.001 inches.

8. (Twice Amended) A delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a guidewire lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, and a stent bed proximate the distal end upon which a self-expanding stent is mounted; and

a sheath defining an interior volume, the sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and an enlarged section proximate the distal end, the sheath being coaxially positioned over the shaft such that the enlarged section is aligned with the stent bed, the sheath including an inner polymeric layer, a lubricious coating on the inner polymeric layer, an outer polymeric layer, and a reinforcement layer, the reinforcement layer comprising a flat wire having a substantially rectangular cross section.

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice.